

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the outstanding Office Action dated December 21, 2004, wherein the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, all the claims pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application based on the amendments made herein and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

It is noted that all of the claims, as amended, are directed to a method of making a dental chew. The method includes the steps of providing a clean hide, infusing the clean hide with both a flavor ingredient and a dental aid, cutting the hide to make hide pieces and drying the hide pieces to make dental chews. Significantly, the infusing step of the inventive method enables full penetration within the hide of both the flavor ingredient and dental aid. In other words, both the flavor ingredient and the dental aid is not only on the outside surface of either the hide or the produced chew, it is also found substantially uniformly therewithin as a result of soaking/infusing the hide with both the flavor ingredient and dental aid. Indeed, this is facilitated by the use of an infusion bath – preferably agitated – thereby accelerating infusion.

Turning now to the prior art rejection, the Examiner rejected all of the claims as anticipated by the patent to Witt et al. ("Witt"). The Examiner's only comment as to method claim 5 (the claims as amended are now solely directed to the method) is that this claim is readily apparent during the operation of the Witt device. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Witt patent indeed appears to describe a pet chew which includes some type of dental aid ingredient as well as flavor. What Witt fails to teach is that the dental aid ingredient and flavor are infused during chew preparation. Rather, Witt only

teaches that its product has the dental ingredients (and presumably the flavor) sprayed onto the chew. In that regard, example 13 at column 24 of the Witt patent specifically states that "chloride-containing pet rawhide chips and toy ropes are prepared by spraying with the oral spray of Example 12 ...". There is no suggestion in Witt of preparing dental chews for pets and animals by including the step of infusing both flavor and a dental aid.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 2-3 and 5-12, all the claims now pending in the application, are directed to allowable subject matter.

Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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